



Multiage and Straight First Grade

As your child begins the journey of Lincoln School's elementary education, it is important for you to understand the possible placements available to first graders. While no guarantees are made, you may request that your child be put in either a straight first grade classroom or the multiage classroom. All requests should be submitted in writing to Mrs. Scanlon by May 1.



What is Multiage?

One first grade and one second grade are combined to form one multiage class taught by two teachers. Learning is centered on overarching questions that are explored over a two-year period of time.

How does Multiage work?

Children "enter" the Multiage program as first graders. They are placed in one of the two homeroom classes and remain in that teacher's homeroom for the two years. They become the "exiting" class the second year when a new group of first graders enter. The two Multiage classes are combined and grouped in multiple ways for instruction throughout both years of the experience. For all intents and purposes the Multiage classes are one whole as opposed to two separate classes.



What are the similarities?

There are more similarities than differences. The curriculum is the same. All first grade teachers and multiage teachers attend collaboration meetings across the district to ensure that curricula goals are aligned. The student/teacher ratio is the same as well.



What are the differences?

There are only a few major differences that prove each program to be unique:

- The number of classroom teachers
- The number of students
- The range of ages of the students
- Multiage involves a two-year as opposed to a single year experience
- Multiage structures the two-year experience under the larger yearlong themes of WATER and COMMUNITY. All first and second grade curriculum of the district is taught, revisited, and experienced over a two-year period of time.
- Multiage utilizes a mentor/protégé model to introduce routines/expectations and enrich learning experiences



We hope this clears up any misconceptions regarding either program. Neither is a remedial nor a gifted/talented placement; rather, both programs serve the needs of all students and are wonderful options.

